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Letter from Linda Grace Hoyer to John Updike, October 27, 1950

Linda Grace Hoyer

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October 27, 1950.

Dear John:

This is the night of the Boyertown game and Daddy is still two hours away from home and I hope he drinks only half as much beer as he did after the last game.

Speaking of coats, you haven't yet answered my question about your scholarship. To which of your bills will it apply and how much of it have you received? I seem to be much more optimistic about your finances than you are. Is that bad? Have I forgotten some dark fact? We'll send you the raincoat you have (against my better judgement). You need a man-sized raincoat and a warm coat for campus wear. Why don't you just forget your troubles and go down to Rogers Peet and get them. You'll need something to keep your feet dry, too. The three items should be had for seventy-five dollars or less. Your last bill is due in June and I'm going to have a couple of hundred dollars worth of strawberries. So, what are we worrying about? If you get a coat with a semblance of fur at the neck, be sure it is mouton and not pile (imitation of fur). Mouton is sheepskin and vastly superior (in my opinion to pile). Approach Rogers Peet with confidence and take their word for it. You're not likely to gain much by bargain hunting. You are quite right about the duffle coats. Leave them to the fiercer brethern. Good luck!

I'm glad you like to wear your blue suit and can swim. How many miles will you have to swim before the lessons end?

Love, *mother*

P.S. No beer and victory: 14 to 7. Daddy says if you don't get a coat pretty soon, I'll be sent to get it for you.